

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

TRSE-00 EB-08 /077 W

-----080306Z 060827 /20

R 071657Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9143

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 02172

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PINT,BE

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT STATEMENT POSTPONED TO MARCH 9

REF: BRUSSELS 2119

SUMMARY: TINDEMANS'S STATEMENT TO CHAMBER (REFTEL) PROMISED FOR MARCH 9 HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO MARCH 10. STATEMENT, WHEN IT COMES, WILL PROBABLY: (1) ANNOUNCE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CARRY ON FOR LIMITED TIME IN MINORITY STATUS, (2) FIX DATE FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS, AND (3) PROPOSE INTERIM OBJECTIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. STATEMENT TO CHAMBER, PROMISED BY TINDEMANS FOR MARCH 9 (REFTEL), UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO MARCH 10. NO REASON WAS ANNOUNCED FOR THE POSTPONEMENT. NOW REDUCED TO 105 OUT OF 212 SEATS IN THE CHAMBER, THE TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE ITS INTENTION TO CARRY ON IN A MINORITY STATUS FOR A LIMITED PERIOD. STATEMENT MAY FIX DATE OF NEXT ELECTIONS AND DEFINE OBJECTIVES WHICH, MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

2.OBJECTIVES WILL ALMOST SURELY INCLUDE THE VOTING OF A DECLARATION OF INTENT TO CONFER ON THE SUCCEEDING LEGISLATURE POWER TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION WITH A VIEW TO RESOLVING THE COMMUNITY PROBLEM. ALSO INCLUDED MAY BE URGENTLY NEEDED ACTION TO DEAL WITH TE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE WALLONIAN STEEL INDUSTRY. IN THE SAME VEIN SOME ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN TO RESTORE LABOR PEACE BY AMENDING OR SUSPENDING ELEMENTS OF THE EGMONT AUSTERITY PLAN.

3.COMMENT: WHILE THERE SEEMS TO BE CONCENSUS AMONT THE PARTIES FOR SOME FORM OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT,AGREEMENT ON THE PRECISE ARTICLES REQUIRING AMENDMENT MAY PROVE TO BE DIFFICULT.NO LESS DIFFICULT WILL BE MEANINGFUL ACTION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SPHERES.

HERE,TINDEMANS MAY BE ABLE TO "GIVE" ONLY ENOUGH TO RESTORE A SOCIAL CLIMATE APPROPRIATE FOR ELECTIONSBUT,EVEN FOR A LIMITED EXTENSION OF HIS RUN,TINDEMANS WILL HAVE TO DEPEND ON ONE OR MORE OPPOSITION PARTIES - EACH OF WHICH HAS ITS PRICE.THE BRUSSELS LIBERALS (PL)WOULD LOOK FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE ECO-NOMIC CRISIS. VOLKSUNIE (VU) WOULD SEEK A DECLARATION LOOKING TOA CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AIMED AT PRODUCING A FEDERAL BELGIUM OF TWO (VICE THREE)REGIONS.

AND,WITHIN HIS COALITION,TINDEMANS WILL FIND THE PSC PRESSING FOR STIMULATIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN PSC,S STANDING WITH THE LABOR VOTE IN DEPRESSED WALLONIA. RENNER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PINT, BE
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